

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1-21 (Cancelled)

22. (New) Selvedge forming apparatus for a weaving machine having a beat-up reed movable to and fro to advance each inserted weft thread up to a beat-up line and a selvedge forming device locatable adjacent a selvedge of a fabric being woven on such a weaving machine configured to introduce an end of each weft thread that has been inserted during weaving via a shed into a subsequently formed shed of such weaving machine for being beat-up with the subsequently inserted weft thread, said selvedge forming apparatus comprising:

a blowing device having at least one blowing opening adapted to be located close to and downstream of the beat-up line of such weaving machine relative to fabric movement close to a plane of the selvedge with an orientation enabling blowing of an air stream onto the end of the weft thread that has been introduced into the subsequently formed shed but before being beat-up, said orientation resulting in blowing of air in a direction back towards the shed and the reed and opposite to the direction of movement of the fabric being woven, so that the end of the weft thread that has been introduced into the subsequently formed shed is blown towards the subsequently inserted weft thread before beat-up in a direction opposite to the direction of fabric movement.

23. (New) Selvedge forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the blowing opening is oriented such that an air stream may be directed to the end of the weft thread that has been introduced into the subsequently formed shed from a location that is above or beneath a fabric being woven.

24. (New) Selvedge forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the blowing opening comprises an elongate linear slot, and wherein the slot is locatable so that it extends essentially parallel to the beat-up line.

25. (New) Selvedge forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the at least one blowing opening comprises several blowing openings arranged along a single line, and

wherein the line of openings is locatable so that it extends essentially parallel to the beat-up line.

26. (New) Selvedge forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the blowing device comprises a hollow needle, and wherein the at least one blowing opening is arranged in a side of the hollow needle, said needle being positionable so it extends essentially parallel to the beat-up line.

27. (New) Selvedge forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the position of the blowing device is adjustable such that its distance to the beat-up line and/or its blowing direction may be adjusted.

28. (New) Selvedge forming apparatus according to claim 22, including one or more drive units arranged to move the position of the blowing device along a beat-up line or alter the direction of the blowing opening.

29. (New) Selvedge forming apparatus according to claim 1, including a guide bar configured and locatable so as to guide the upper side and / or the under side of a selvedge of a fabric being woven after the beat-up line relative to the blowing device, the guiding element being locatable on the opposite side of the fabric being woven than the side on which the blowing device is located.

30. (New) Selvedge forming apparatus according to claim 1, including a side guiding element arranged to enable the edge of the selvedge of a fabric being woven following the beat-up line to be guided relative to the blowing device.

31. (New) Weaving machine comprising a beat-up reed movable to and fro to advance each inserted weft thread up to a beat-up line and a selvedge forming device located adjacent a selvedge of a fabric being woven on the weaving machine configured to introduce an end of each weft thread that has been inserted during weaving via a shed into a subsequently formed shed of the weaving machine for being beat-up with the subsequently inserted weft thread; said selvedge forming apparatus comprising a blowing device having at least one blowing opening located close to and downstream of the beat-up line relative to fabric movement

close to a plane of the selvage with an orientation enabling blowing of an air stream onto the end of the weft thread that has been introduced into the subsequently formed shed but before being beat-up, said orientation resulting in blowing of air in a direction back towards the shed and the reed and opposite to the direction of movement of the fabric being woven, so that the end of the weft thread that has been introduced into the subsequently formed shed is blown towards the subsequently inserted weft thread before beat-up in a direction opposite to the direction of fabric movement.

32. (New) Weaving machine according to claim 31, wherein the blowing opening is oriented such that an air stream is directed to the end of the weft thread that has been introduced into the subsequently formed shed from a location that is above or beneath the fabric being woven.

33. (New) Weaving machine according to claim 31, wherein the blowing opening comprises an elongate linear slot, and wherein the slot is locatable so that it extends essentially parallel to the beat-up line.

34. (New) Weaving machine to claim 31, wherein the at least one blowing opening comprises several blowing openings arranged along a single line, and wherein the line of openings is located so that it extends essentially parallel to the beat-up line.

35. (New) Weaving machine according to claim 31, wherein the blowing device comprises a hollow needle, and wherein the at least one blowing opening is arranged in a side of the hollow needle, said needle being located so it extends essentially parallel to the beat-up line.

36. (New) Weaving machine according to claim 31, wherein the position of the blowing device is adjustable such that its distance to the beat-up line and/or its blowing direction may be varied.

37. (New) Weaving machine according to claim 31, including one or more drive units arranged to move the position of the blowing device along a beat-up line or alter the direction of the blowing opening.

38. (New) Weaving machine according to claim 31, including a guide bar configured and located so as to guide the upper side and /or the under side of a selvedge of a fabric being woven after the beat-up line relative to the blowing device, the guiding element being located on the opposite side of a fabric being woven than the side on which the blowing device is located.

39. (New) Weaving machine according to claim 37, wherein the guide bar comprises a blowing device having at least one blowing opening directed towards the beat-up line.

40. (New) Weaving machine according to claim 31, including a side guiding element arranged to guide the edge of the selvedge of a fabric being woven following the beat-up line relative to the blowing device.

41. (New) Weaving machine according to claim 31, including a fabric support following the beat-up line, said blowing device being attached to the fabric support.

42. (New) Method for forming a selvedge on a fabric during weaving on a weaving machine, comprising the steps of :

inserting a weft thread into a shed formed of warp threads and beating-up the inserted weft thread by a device moving to a beat-up line;

introducing an end of the inserted weft thread into a subsequently formed shed;

inserting a next weft thread into the subsequently formed shed, and beating-up said next weft thread together with the end of the previously inserted weft thread at the beat-up line;

wherein, before beating up the end of the weft thread that has been introduced into the subsequently formed shed, an air-stream is blown onto said end of the weft thread before beat-up, said air-stream being essentially directed towards the beat-up line against the moving direction of the fabric being woven so as to urge the weft thread that has been introduced into the subsequently formed shed towards the next weft thread.

43. (New) Method according to claim 40, wherein during the blowing of the air stream, the air-stream is directed from below or above the plane of the fabric.

44. (New) Method according to claim 40, wherein during blowing of the air stream, blowing the air-stream so as to blow the end of the next weft thread introduced into the subsequently formed shed into a guide channel of a reed which is moving toward the beat-up line.

45. (New) Method according to claim 40, including carrying out the insertion of the end of the next weft thread into the subsequently formed shed by blowing that end into that subsequent shed.